

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of                          )  
KUROKAWA et al.                                        )  
Application Number: To be Assigned                    )  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith                        )  
For:   STORAGE SYSTEM WITH A DATA SORT              )  
     FUNCTION   )  
Atty Docket No.           WILL.0003                    )

**Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above identified application as follows: